MONTEITHBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1919.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1919.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General has provided the following estimates of population, viz. :-

6673 for estimating the Birth Rate.
6406 for estimating the Death Rate.

BIRTH RATE.

The births numbered 177, giving a birth rate of 26. 5 per 1,000. The rate for England and Wales was 18.5 per 1,000.

DEATH RATE.

The Deaths numbered 85, giving a death rate of 13.3 per 1000. The rate for England and Wales was 13.8 per 1,000.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE. was 1.09 per 1,000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DEATH RATE was 102 per 1,000 births. Rate for England and Wales was 89 per 1,000.

Of the 85 deaths registered the principal causes of death were as follows :-

Enteric Fever	1.
Whooping Cough	2.
Influenza.	6.
Erysipelas.	2.
Phthisis	4.
Cancer.	5.
Organic Heart Disease.	7.
Bronchitis	12.
Pneumonia.	5.
Other Respiratory diseases.	2.
Diarrhoea.	4.
Appendicitis.	2.
Parturition.	1.
Congenital Debility	8.
Accidents.	4.
Suicide.	1.
Other Diseases.	19

The Zymotic causes were 1 - Enteric Fever, 2 Whooping Cough, 6 - Influenza, 1 - Erysipelas, 4 - Diarrhoea.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Enteric Fever - 3 Cases of Enteric Fever were notified

during the year, one of which proved fatal. In one case the closet and drains were found to be defective, and the patient complained of the bad smell. This nuisance was remedied. Another case was of a discharged soldier who was out of sorts when he arrived home. He stated he had been stationed at some Cavalry Barracks near Edinburgh which had been condemned.

In the other case no apparent cause could be traced. One case was removed to Hospital, the other two being treated at home, as there was proper isolation and nursing.

DIPHTHERIA

Two mild cases occurred during the year, and they were both removed to Hospital and recovered.

SCARLET FEVER.

Four cases were notified, and all were removed to Hospital and recovered.

ERYSIPELAS.

One case occurred which proved fatal.

INFLUENZA.

There were many cases in March and April, and six deaths were directly due to this disease. This outbreak was the third one within 12 months, the first one being in June, 1918, and chiefly among children. The second one, which was marked by the severity and number of cases was in November and December, 1918, when pneumonic complications were prevalent. In the third outbreak in March 1919 I noticed that the most severe cases were in people who had escaped infection in the first two outbreaks. Most of those who had an attack in 1918 either escaped infection in 1919 or had it slightly, though a few people who are evidently susceptible to this disease, had an attack during each outbreak, but evidently the majority are protected for a time after having had an attack.

No other disease in my time has equalled these outbreaks for rapidity and spread of the infection.

The chief difficulty in dealing with this disease was to obtain skilled nursing and suitable nourishment owing to War conditions and rationing.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease was somewhat prevalent during the last quarter of the year, and caused two deaths.

DIARRHOEA.

This was not so prevalent in the Summer and Autumn as usual, though 4 deaths of children were due to this cause.

SANITARY WORK.

During 1919 owing to the War conditions, only necessary routine work has been done, viz:- Attention to Scavenging, Abatement of nuisances, and disinfection, and control of Infectious Diseases, though when affairs become normal important work will have to be done, viz:- Extension of sewers, Housing, dealing with old defective property, and conversion of privies into W.C's. The number of Water Closets is now, 603 and privy middens, 542.

During the year the owners of Banks Garth cottages, and cottage behind the Corn stores, Aire Street, carried out improvements, relaying the yards and converting privies into W.C's. A start has also been made with laying the extensions of the Main Sewer in Pontefract Road and Ferrybridge Lane, so that in 1920 the adjoining properties should be able to connect up and do away with the cesspools.

HOUSING.

In common with other Districts there is a great dearth of houses. In November a special Housing Survey was made, which revealed the fact that in 99 houses only fit for one family there were two families living. Also 253 working-class dwellings were inhabited by 1644 persons, giving an average over six per house, which considering the size of house, shews overcrowding. The Council considered that at least 150 new houses were required in the immediate future to relieve the situation. There is one point to bear in mind with reference to this question that a large number of persons who work at the Collieries outside this District came to live here owing to house shortage in those Districts, and probably if more houses become available in the districts where their work is they might migrate back again.

In my opinion the number of 150 new houses is little enough, as there are no houses to let in the Township, and it is impossible to deal with the closure of some of the old houses until there is accommodation provided for the inmates. There are at present some 25 houses which should be closed when it becomes practicable.

Sites and plans have been approved for 2 sites at present. First site for 16 houses in Forge Hill Lane, and second site for 26 houses in Wonersley Road, which are hoped to be completed in 1920. Other sites for the remaining houses will have to be considered.

Among other requirements wanted by the Township are a School clinic, for which premises have been secured, and which will be started in 1920.

A certified midwife is also urgently required, as the old ones on the Register are either dead, or have given up work, leaving only one doing regular work at present, so that many cases are dependent on the ordinary handy woman.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) A. P. PERCIVAL.

Medical Officer of Health.